

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1895 without my signature.

I support policies that provide children and their advocates with means to obtain and exercise their rights, however this bill is unnecessary. The Department of Social Services has taken steps to minimize this potential problem for foster youth by recently developing regulations that require a Transitional Independent Living Plan to be completed for each child in foster care. This plan includes a variety of issues, including addressing immigration status. This should enable the immigration process to be started sooner.

Current law already requires the court to appoint an attorney to represent the child in dependency proceedings. Counties already have the option of appointing an attorney to assist in resolving the immigration status of a child. This bill will apply an overbroad solution to all counties regardless of the individual needs of each jurisdiction.

For the reasons stated above I am unable to support this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger